

—“What, then, is the penal check which your experience suggests? We reply, let the law distinctly affirm, that no one shall practice the healing art, with a view to gain, who has not given evidence of his competency. Punish those who offend against the law in this respect; let the process be simple and inexpensive, the punishment certain, and following closely upon the commission of the offence; give a power to two magistrates to convict, and punish by fine and imprisonment, with appeal to the quarter sessions.” In all other cases, there was first the law to forbid the act; but by this singular part of the present bill, persons were allowed to practice, and yet the power to sue for charges was to be taken away from them. Little effect would, however, ensue from this, as all honest people would pay those whom they voluntarily employed. This did not remove the anomaly of the act, arising from the absence of a general penal clause. They had heard much of putting the cart before the horse—but here was a cart and no horse at all—a passive machine without a locomotive attached—accomplishing what Hudibras contemplated,

“To keep us equally in awe,  
Of breaking and maintaining law.”

It was a great point to have a general penal clause, and to render it as effective as possible.

The Chairman then put the resolution, which, as well as the preceding resolutions, was carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. R. J. Tunaley, of Wyndham, and seconded by Mr. Drake, of Norwich: “That the foregoing resolutions be published in the local papers, and a copy of them sent to each Member of Parliament for this city, the county of Norfolk, and its boroughs; and that a petition based upon these resolutions be prepared by the following committee, and after receiving the signatures of those members of the profession who are willing to support its prayer, be presented to each House of Parliament, and that the committee be requested to continue their services for the purpose of watching the interests of the profession. Committee: Dr. Evans, Dr. Lynn, Dr. Wayte, J. G. Crosse, B. H. Norgate, J. G. Johnson, C. Costerton, W. P. Nichols, A. Dalrymple, W. S. Ferrier, R. D. Hale, D. Dalrymple, and P. Eade, Esqrs., with power to add to their number.”

(Signed) J. G. CROSSE,  
Chairman.

#### LEEDS MEETING.

At a meeting of the Medical Profession of the Borough of Leeds, held at the Philosophical Hall, on Thursday, the 12th instant, Samuel Smith, Esq., in the chair, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by Mr. Hey, and seconded by Mr. Cass:—“That this meeting observes with pleasure that by the introduction into Parliament of a Bill intitled ‘A Bill for the better Regulation of Medical Practice throughout the United Kingdom,’ Her Majesty’s Ministers have at length admitted the necessity which has been so long felt by the Profession of making some alteration in its government.”

Moved by Mr. Nunneley, and seconded by Mr. Hall:—“That this Meeting views with satisfaction the approximation made by this bill towards the attain-

ment of a high and uniform standard of qualification for all members of the medical profession, and it is earnestly hoped, in the progress of the Bill through the Houses of Parliament, its provisions may be rendered as complete as possible.

Moved by Mr. Price, and seconded by Mr. Pullan:—“That, whilst it is admitted that it may be exceedingly difficult entirely to suppress quackery, this Meeting is decidedly of opinion that some more stringent measures than are contained in the proposed Bill ought to be adopted for the protection of the public and the profession against ignorant and unqualified persons.

Proposed by Mr. Braithwaite and seconded by Mr. Evans:—“That a permanent Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen—Messrs. Braithwaite, Brown, Bulmer, Cass, Chorley, Garlick, Hall, Hey, Land, Macfarlan, Nunneley, Price, Ratcliffe, Smith, and Teale, with power to add to their number, be now appointed for the purpose of communicating with the Borough Members, of watching the progress of the Bill, and taking such other steps as they may think necessary for carrying out the views of this Meeting.”

#### BIRMINGHAM MEETING.

On Tuesday, Sept. 10th, a very numerous and highly respectable meeting of the medical profession of Birmingham and the neighbourhood, was held at the Public Office, for the purpose of taking into consideration the bill lately introduced by Sir Jas. Graham for Medical Reform.

Among those present were the following gentlemen—Dr. Fletcher, Dr. Birt Davies, Dr. Skerratt, Dr. Mackay, Messrs. Thomas Chavasse, Pye Chavasse, Swinson, George Elkington, Crompton, Holbech, Wickenden, Russell, Knowles, Crompton, F. Elkington, Ryland, Partridge, Bindley, Taylor, Cartwright, Allarton, A. Baker, Saunders, Bracey, Simons, Archer, Wilders, Harmer, Hadley, Cheshire, Sproston, Parsons, Watson, Hind, Green, Parker, Lawrence, and Mash, of Northampton.

Dr. Bell Fletcher was called to the chair, and among the resolutions passed were the following:—

“That this meeting, having had its attention called to the provisions of a Bill which has been submitted to the House of Commons by Sir James Graham, on the subject of Medical Reform, is of opinion that there are some very important objects not provided for in that measure, to which the attention of the Legislature should be earnestly and respectfully called.

“That in the opinion of this meeting the system at present pursued in this country by druggists, and other unqualified persons, of prescribing for and attending patients, is fraught with serious danger to the public at large, and more particularly to the poor; and that the absence of all restrictions in the Bill now before Parliament, beyond the mere disqualification for holding public appointments, is deeply to be lamented, as it is evident the mass of the population cannot discriminate between the ignorant pretender and the regularly educated practitioner—the fact of registration being utterly insufficient for that purpose.

“It appearing to this meeting that the direct sanction given by Government to quackery, by legalising the sale of stamped medicines, has a tendency greatly to deceive and to prejudice the minds of the public, and

is fraught with danger to the lives of her Majesty's subjects: Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that Government should provide some measure for the suppression of the sale of stamped medicines.

"That petitions, embodying the foregoing resolutions, be addressed to both Houses of Parliament; and that a deputation do wait upon the Earl of Dartmouth and the Borough Members, to request them to present the same, and to use their best exertions to promote the success of its prayer.

"That this meeting acknowledges with pleasure the communication received from the Chairman of the Birmingham and Midland Districts Medical and Surgical Association, and is anxious to express its approbation of the principles on which that Society is formed."

#### HASTINGS MEETING.

At a meeting of the medical practitioners resident in Hastings and St. Leonards, held on Monday the 16th of September, and convened for the purpose of discussing the medical bill of Sir James Graham; W. Duke, Esq., in the chair:—

Resolved:—That this meeting views with disapprobation the proposed constitution of the Council of Health and Medical Education, inasmuch as no general practitioner is by this bill proposed to be appointed on the council, thereby withholding from that numerous body a voice in the formation of all the laws and regulations which will have so important an effect on the future condition of the great body of medical practitioners throughout the United Kingdom.

Resolved:—That in the opinion of this meeting the Bill for the better Regulation of Medical Practice throughout the United Kingdom, repealing as it does the Apothecaries' Act of 1815; and substituting no adequate protection to the great body of medical practitioners, would, if carried in its present form, be highly prejudicial to the interests of the profession and to the public welfare.

Resolved:—That the Society of Apothecaries are entitled to the best thanks of the profession, for having enforced a gradual and extended course of study and examination, which has elevated the position of the general practitioner, and that the removal of all restrictions and penalties from unlicensed practitioners of medicine, which the repeal of the Act of 1815 would effect, would be greatly injurious to the profession, and to the public at large.

Resolved:—That a deputation be formed, consisting of the Chairman, Dr. Mackness, R. Ranking, Esq., F. Ticehurst, Esq., J. Savory, Esq., W. H. Gardner, Esq., J. Ranger, Esq., and the Secretary, to wait upon the Members for the borough, and to afford them any necessary explanation, requesting them to support the views of this meeting, urging upon them the injustice to the profession, and the injury to the public, certain to result from the carrying out of the proposed Bill of Sir James Graham.

Resolved:—That a petition to the House of Commons be prepared, founded on the above resolutions, and that it be presented to the House by R. Holland,

and M. Blisco, Esqrs., and that the County Members, G. Darby, and A. G. Fuller, Esqrs., be requested to support the prayer of the petition.

WALTER DUKE,  
Honorary Secretary.

Hastings, Sept. 19, 1844.

#### ROCHDALE MEETING.

A meeting of the Medical Practitioners of Rockdale and the neighbourhood was held on Thursday, the 26th instant, to take into consideration the provisions of Sir J. Graham's Medical Reform Bill. There were present—Mr. Dunlop, chairman; Dr. Edwards; Messrs. Wood, F.R.C.S.; Bower, Dicken, Barker, Sellers, Lamb, Lawton, R. Barker, Schofield, N. Buckley, Collingwood, Coventry, Taylor, and Thomasson.

A petition to the House of Commons, strongly condemnatory of that portion of Sir J. Graham's measure which proposes to repeal the Act of 1815, without the substitution of any other equally stringent enactment for the protection of the legally qualified practitioner, was unanimously agreed to.

A deputation was also appointed to wait upon the Honourable Member for the borough, to request him to present the petition, and to support its prayer, at the meeting of Parliament.

#### SALISBURY MEETING.

At meeting of the medical practitioners in Salisbury, held at the Salisbury Infirmary, September 21, 1844; present; Dr. Grove, in the chair, Dr. W. C. Fitch, H. Coates, Esq., W. Andrews, Esq., G. Tatam, Esq., John Toone, Esq., John Winzar, Esq., W. M. Coates, Esq., T. R. Moore, Esq., J. A. Lush, Esq., A. Middleton, Esq., G. Senior, Esq.:—It was resolved that a General Meeting of the Medical Practitioners of the county should be convened to discuss the provisions of Sir James Graham's Bill for the better Regulation of Medical Practice throughout the United Kingdom. The meeting was appointed to be held at the Council Chamber, Salisbury, on Tuesday, the 8th of October, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Directors of the Dundee Royal Asylum for Lunatics, &c. Dundee: 1844, 8vo. pp. 48.

State of an Institution near York, called the Retreat for Persons afflicted with Disorders of the Mind. Forty-eighth Report. York: 1844, 12mo., pp. 26.

#### ERRATUM.

Page 388, col. 2, line 32. The measurement of the diameter of the pelvis in the case narrated in the Journal of September 18th, was from one inch and a half to one inch and five eighths, instead of from one inch and three eighths to one inch and a half, as there stated.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Cullen; Dr. Hindle; Mr. G. King; and Dr. Paxton.